

To: Chairman Mayes and Commissioners

E-015754-08-0328

Date: March 30, 2009

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Re: SSVEC Regular Board Meeting March 25<sup>th</sup> 2009, Patagonia, Arizona

Members of Save the Scenic Sonoita/Elgin Grasslands attended and addressed the Board.

There were three main topics of presentation.

1. Jeanne Horsmann presented the Board with an update on the community efforts to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Santa Cruz County Renewable Energy Expo. This expo will be held April 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Sonoita. In the two weeks since this effort began, the expo has grown to include the following exhibitors/presenters:

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords Office  
Arizona Department of Commerce, Energy Office  
Allwest Energy, Florence  
American Solar Electric, Scottsdale  
Arizona Electric Power Cooperative  
A.R.E. Solar Community Farms, Sonoita  
Copernicus Energy, Tubac  
Custom Solar & Leisure, Tucson  
Expert Solar Systems, Tucson  
Hendricks Plumbing, Patagonia  
Mountain Empire Electrical Technologies, Sonoita  
New Zero Solar, Tucson  
SolarForRent, Tucson  
Southwest Solar, Tucson  
Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative  
The Solar Store, Tucson

Local Community Organizations:

Local Sustainability for E Santa Cruz, Patagonia  
Mountain Empire Rotary Club  
Patagonia Area Business Association  
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas  
Save the Scenic Sonoita/Elgin Grasslands  
Sonoita Crossroads Community Forum  
Sonoita Elgin Chamber of Commerce

With live music by the local Hog Canyon Band

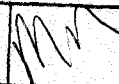
The community is very supportive of this effort with over 25 local individuals and businesses pledging sponsorship of over \$1,000. Generous donations from SSVEC and AEPCO have also been promised.

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This expo is a direct result of our desire to find an alternative to the proposed 69 kV power line that SSVEC is installing. At the February Board of Directors meeting, SSVEC gave us one month to come up with viable alternatives and 'show them the money'. To come up with an alternative in one month is just not possible. Jeanne Horsmann asked the Board of Directors of SSVEC to give us one year to research and develop alternative solutions. The community is behind this effort and sincerely wants to work with SSVEC to find a solution.

This expo is the first step to educating the community about renewable alternatives to the power line. Our plan is to get 500 homes/businesses to install alternative energy and thus reduce the demands on the current line negating the need for a new larger line.

2. The second step to 'show them the money' is to get a grant(s) to fund a feasibility study for the construction of one or more local small (1-5 MW) alternative power generating station(s). Rob Horsmann presented to the Board information that Audubon in conjunction with Toyota has grants for just such a project. The Sonoita Crossroads Community Forum and the Audubon Research Ranch have joined forces to apply for this grant. Rob told the Board that we would take Jack Blair up on SSVEC's previous offer to use their grant writer for this effort. We are also continuing to look for other grant sources.

3. Finally, Gail Getzwiller, presented the Board an analysis of SSVEC's outage figures for 2008. When the numbers are added up for the five most 'unreliable' feeder lines, it is apparent that our V7 feeder does not have the most outages or number of hours off/consumer. (See table below) It is also apparent that the causes of outages, i.e. birds, wind, lightning, etc., would also affect a new line and thus the 'reliability' of power to the Elgin, Sonoita, Patagonia area would not be improved. Gail also asked for one year.

Gail also presented the Board with several articles about the upcoming problems the electric industry will be facing with coal fired electric plants and the new 3M aluminum wire that could be used to upgrade the existing line to Sonoita, which would negate the need for the 69 kV line.

The Board listened and for the first time appeared to be receptive to our ideas. Although Creden Huber expressed surprised at our request for 'one year'.

Dorothy Sturges, of Sonoita, requested a direct answer from the Board as to when we would receive cost comparisons on the alternatives vs. the

proposed line. Creden Huber answered that they were working on it and when pressed said we would receive an answer in one month.

As of this date, we have heard nothing back from SSVEC about our request for a one-year hiatus on the 69 kV power line construction.

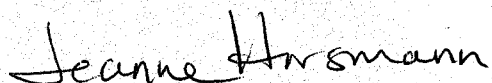
**2008  
OUTAGE  
DATA  
SSVEC**

Date YYMMDD	LINE			Hrs Off	# of Consumers	Consumer Hrs Off	HR OFF/CON
TOTAL V7	Sonoita /Patagonia			179.98	3057	3839.91	0.06
TOTAL O5	Mescal			392.22	2639	4657.97	0.15
TOTAL R3	Ramsey			64.16	1006	2988.66	0.06
TOTAL K2	CHRI			239.75	1828	4299.75	0.13

As you can see from the data, there are 3 lines with twice the hours off per customer than Sonoita, and one with the same number of hours off per customer. Sonoita area is not their worst performing feeder line, as we have been lead to believe.

Thank you for your continued interest and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Horsmann  
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